



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH

Leading People to Jesus Through Worship, Community, Service and Devotion to Mary

Immaculate Conception Parish Pastoral Council Meeting April 9, 2025

Rich Viertel called the meeting to order at 7:37pm. Fr. Matt led the opening prayer.

Attendees: Rich Viertel, Kendra Girardot, Paula Mong, Janet Wilks, Fr. Matthew Hoover, Deacon Chris Campbell, Principal Colleen Kent, and Julie Clemens. Not present: Max Herath and David Lyons.

Opening Comments – Fr. Matthew Hoover

Fr. Matt expressed gratitude for the important advisory role that Council members fill and wished them a time of rest and spiritual renewal during Holy Week.

Announcements – Rich Viertel

- **Parish Council at April 6 Hospitality Sunday as featured ministry:** Thanks to Paula, Julie and Max for participating on behalf of Council.
- **IC Campus “Artification:”** Final recommendation from Council is to consider hanging the artwork in a gallery formation on a wall in Marian Hall. Fr. Matt is in discussion with School leadership to create a spiritual theology using storyboards for each display item. The storyboards will include descriptions of the art that is geared toward multiple age groups. Council suggested the storyboards include Fr. Matt’s perspective on why he selected each piece as well as a question that will further engage the viewers. In the future the gallery display items could be included in an IC tour led by students. Council also suggested, if possible, the project be completed in time for the IC Festival.
- **2025 4:00pm Christmas Mass Scheduling:** Father accepted Council’s recommendation for the 4pm Mass to have overflow set up in Marian Hall and Mass live streamed on screen. Council recommended doing pulpit announcements during October, November, and December to inform parishioners of the overflow/live stream. Special incentives or features could be added to the other Masses to motivate greater attendance at them.
- **May Crowning – Sunday, May 11:** Janet and Lisa Galden will organize this event. A suggestion was made to set up folding chairs (approx. 15) for parishioners who cannot stand for a long period of time. Council agreed to test this practice at May Crowning and if they are useful, to provide them for the Corpus Christi procession.
- **Corpus Christi Picnic – Sunday, June 22 after 11:00 Mass & Processional – picnic presented by Parish Council:** Preparation and food managed by Knights of Columbus. IC Women’s Club will provide desserts.
- **Engage at IC –** Father was apprised of Council’s preference to create a static display to share information of IC’s ministries rather than holding an event. The static display will run for two weekend Mass cycles (i.e., 9 days). A suggestion was made for Parish Commissions

to host an online meeting once or twice each year for ministry leaders who are unable to attend in person. Council agreed an online meeting could be held in October or November of 2025, to determine whether a remote meeting will increase attendance.

- **2025 Triduum – New strategy is to orient it to be more of a retreat experience vs. an “event:”** Council agreed that religious sisters could be engaged for program development. Rich will contact Sister Antoinette Cedrone, the Diocesan Director of Religious-Order Priests, Sisters, and Brothers, for her guidance and recommendations. Council will continue to plan with an expectation to finish the agenda by Aug. or Sept.
- **Parish Council Member Recruiting:** Rich and Fr. Matt have a list of parishioners to contact about the 2 open seats. Rich reminded Council that the role of VP should be filled by a Council member and his intention is to fill the President and VP roles by the last meeting of the year. Council asked Rich to renew his role of President for another year, which would allow time for a member to serve as VP before becoming President.

2025 Aspirations:

- Fill the role of Vice-President for the Council.
- Increase attendance by Parish Commission members to share the plans and insights for their respective ministries. Targeting 15-20 of these Ministries being represented to share their voice.
- Take an incremental step forward in the Engage at IC process to introduce and secure commitment for Parish member participation in our ministries.
- Continue to build on the good work of the Council in furthering the work of our ministries & commissions to increase sharing of plans and programming to identify opportunities to keep our mission in high gear.

Commission Breakout Meeting Reports

- **Faith Formation & Spiritual Life:** Commission members discussed the December Triduum, Engage@IC, and organizing an IC viewing of the new film: Carlos Acutis Roadmap to Reality, which will be in theaters 4/27-4/29.
- **Social Concerns:** Fr. Matt spoke with Commission members about recent changes made to the diocesan Social Concerns system (e.g., the St. Lawrence Haven food pantry closed in March). He asked them to discuss and plan the future direction of Social Concerns at IC.
- **Parish & Community Life:** The Women’s Club will be hosting a reception for First Communion on 4/16. Four food trucks will be a IC on 5/16, and parish council has been asked to donate desserts (individually wrapped cookies, cupcakes, and brownies) and work at the dessert table. The IC school musical, Matilda JR., will run 4/10-4/12.

Closing and Next Meeting

Rich called the meeting to a close at 8:36pm. The next Council meeting will be held at 7:30pm on May 14, 2025.

Meeting minutes drafted and submitted by Julie Clemens, Parish Council Secretary.